



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Convicted in Brazen Attack and Robbery of Pedestrian in Downtown Washington - Defendant Had Two Additional Stolen Cell Phones at Time of Arrest -

WASHINGTON - Fidel Quintanilla, 18, of Washington, D.C., has been convicted by a jury of charges stemming from a robbery and assault of a woman near a downtown Metro station, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

The jury returned its verdict April 19, 2011, following a trial in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Quintanilla was convicted of robbery, assault with significant bodily injury, and receipt of stolen property. The Honorable Florence Y. Pan scheduled sentencing for June 28, 2011. Under the court's voluntary sentencing guidelines, Quintanilla faces 18 to 60 months of incarceration for the robbery charge and additional time for the other offenses.

According to the government's evidence, the defendant and a juvenile attacked the woman late December 19, 2010, as she was walking to the Farragut West Metro station. The victim was crossing K Street at Connecticut Avenue NW, and the juvenile came up from behind her and tried to grab her bags. She resisted, and the juvenile knocked her to the ground and punched her head repeatedly. When she screamed for help, Quintanilla joined in the attack, trying to pull away her purse and hitting her in the arm. He grabbed her cell phone from her hand.

A passing driver saw the suspects flee and offered to assist the victim. Together, they drove around the area and spotted the defendant, walking alone, only a couple of blocks from the site of the attack. They called the police, and then followed Quintanilla as he walked north on Connecticut Avenue and was joined by two juveniles, one of whom was the other attacker.

Police arrested all three individuals. When police stopped Quintanilla, he tossed the victim's cell phone. He was found to be carrying two additional cell phones, one of which had been taken in a robbery of a pregnant woman an hour earlier and blocks away. The government's evidence suggested that this robbery was perpetrated by juvenile friends of the defendant. The third phone, an iPhone, had been stolen from a vehicle in November 2010. The government's evidence showed that the defendant had been using this iPhone to call, text, and take pictures even while he continued receiving e-mails intended for the true owner on the phone.

In announcing the verdict, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the work of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers who investigated the case, including Detectives DeJuan Williams and Charles Fultz and Officer Michael O'Dea. U.S. Attorney Machen also praised the work of U.S. Attorney's Office Investigator John Marsh, who performed a forensic analysis on the recovered phones. He also recognized the assistance of Thomas Royal, Joshua Ellen, and Jeanie Latimore-Brown of the Litigation Technology Unit, as well as Paralegal Specialist Tamaya Reid for her work in preparing the case for trial. Finally, he expressed his appreciation to Assistant U.S. Attorney Trevor McFadden, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

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